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Economic and Social Council

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Provisional summary record of the 47th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 15 December 2009, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. Lucas ..... (Luxembourg)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (*continued*)

Committee for the United Nations Population Award

1. **The President** said that the Group of Asian States had endorsed Bangladesh to fill one of its vacant seats on the Committee and that the Group of Eastern European States had endorsed the Czech Republic to fill its vacant seat on the Committee. She took it that the Council wished to elect Bangladesh and the Czech Republic by acclamation to the Committee for the United Nations Population Award for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2010.

2. *It was so decided.*

3. **The President** said that, having received no other candidatures, she took it that the Council agreed to further postpone the election of two members from the Group of African States, one member from the Group of Asian States and one member from the Group of Western European and other States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2010.

4. *It was so decided.*

Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

5. **The President** said that the Group of Asian States had endorsed China to fill its vacant seat on the Programme Coordinating Board. She took it that the Council wished to elect China by acclamation to the Programme Coordinating Board for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2010.

6. *It was so decided.*

7. **The President** said that, having received no other candidatures, she took it that the Council agreed to further postpone the election of one member from the Group of African States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2010.

8. *It was so decided.*

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

9. **The President** said that the Group of Asian States had endorsed Afghanistan to fill its vacant seat on the Governing Council. She took it that the Council wished to elect Afghanistan by acclamation to the Governing Council for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2012.

10. *It was so decided.*

11. **The President** said that, having received no other candidatures, she took it that the Council agreed to postpone the election of four members from the Group of Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election, with two members expiring on 31 December 2011 and two members expiring on 31 December 2012.

12. *It was so decided.*

Resignation of a member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/2009/9/Add.22)

13. **The President** invited the Council to elect one member to fill a vacancy on the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights arising from the resignation of Mr. Yuri Kolosov of the Russian Federation. In that regard, the Government of the Russian Federation had nominated Mr. Aslan Khuseinovich Abashidze to replace him. She informed the Council that the candidature of Mr. Abashidze had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States and drew attention to his biographical information contained in document E/2009/9/Add.22. She took it that the Council wished to elect Mr. Abashidze by acclamation to assume Mr. Kolosov's seat for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2010.

14. *It was so decided.*

Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

15. **The President** said that under the terms of Council resolutions 2006/3 and 2008/38, members elected by the Council to the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission would serve a term of office beginning on 1 January and expiring two years thereafter, or until the expiration of their membership in the Council. The term of office for

the three members elected by the Council, namely Algeria, El Salvador and Luxembourg, would expire on 31 December 2009. As a result, their seats on the Organizational Committee would become vacant as of 1 January 2010. She had been advised that the Group of African States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and other States had endorsed Egypt, Brazil and Australia, respectively, to fill the upcoming vacancies. She took it that the Council wished to elect Egypt, Brazil and Australia to complete the terms of Algeria, El Salvador and Luxembourg on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission from 1 January 2010 until 31 December 2010.

16. *It was so decided.*

Committee for Development Policy (E/2009/9/Add.21)

17. **The President** invited the Council to appoint one member to the Committee for Development Policy to fill the remaining seat. In that respect, she informed the Council that the Secretary-General had nominated Mr. Patrick Plane of France and drew attention to the biographical information contained in document E/2009/9/Add.21. She therefore took it that the Council approved the nomination by the Secretary-General of Mr. Plane for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2010.

18. *It was so decided.*

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti (*continued*) (E/2009/117 and E/2009/L.45)

Draft decision entitled "Appointment of an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti"

19. **The President** drew attention to the letter dated 1 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/2009/117) and invited the Council to turn to the draft decision contained in document E/2009/L.45, entitled "Appointment of an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti", submitted by Canada and El Salvador.

20. **Mr. Adler** (Canada), introducing the draft decision, called for the Council to endorse the decision to appoint the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations as an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti.

21. **The President** recalled that, in line with Council resolution 2009/4, the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti had been extended until its substantive session in July 2010. The draft decision had no programme budget implications.

22. **Ms. Gallardo Hernández** (El Salvador) said that her Government wished to join the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti in order to provide additional support to Haiti and to share its own peacebuilding experience as a post-conflict country.

23. **Ms. Romulus** (Observer for Haiti) expressed her gratitude to the delegations of Canada and El Salvador for their interest in providing assistance to Haiti, which could benefit greatly from the lessons learned by El Salvador.

24. *The draft decision contained in document E/2009/L.45 was adopted.*

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(i) United Nations Forum on Forests (*continued*) (E/2009/118-E/CN.18/SS/2009/2)

Draft decision entitled "Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the special session of its ninth session"

25. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the special session of its ninth session" (E/2009/118-E/CN.18/SS/2009/2). She took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

26. *Draft decision E/2009/118-E/CN.18/SS/2009/2 was adopted.*

(k) Cartography (*continued*) (E/2009/L.46)

Draft decision entitled "Organization of the twenty-sixth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names"

27. **Mr. Plunkett** (Canada), introducing the draft decision, said that the procedural draft decision extracted a proposal contained in the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its twenty-fifth session (E/2009/58), which had been before the Council during its 2009 substantive session and which the Council had

taken note of by its decision 2009/243. Following that session, the delegation of Canada had been informed by the Secretariat that the Council needed to take action to enable the appropriate scheduling of the twenty-sixth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, as well as the selection of its venue.

28. *Draft decision E/2009/L.46 was adopted.*

Briefings on the outcome of the World Summit on Food Security and on the work of the Secretary-General's High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis

29. **Ms. Ratsifandrihamanana** (Observer for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) welcomed the high level of attendance at the recent World Summit on Food Security, which had resulted in a declaration that contained agreed commitments and actions, including a number of strategic objectives to achieve the targets of Millennium Development Goal 1 and the World Food Summits. That document committed Member States to working within the framework of the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition; reforming the Committee on World Food Security; reversing the decline in funding for agriculture, food security and rural development; and facing the challenges of climate change to food security. It also outlined five principles for sustainable global food security, namely: investment in country-owned plans; strategic coordination at the national, regional and global levels; a comprehensive twin-track approach to food security; a strong role for the multilateral system; and a sustained and substantial commitment by all partners to investment in agriculture, food security and nutrition.

30. During the Summit many delegations had voiced various concerns about the global food security situation and the need for effective action. Their recommendations included the eradication of hunger as a norm of international law and support for the efforts of African countries to dedicate 10 per cent of their national budgets to agriculture. Developed countries had also been encouraged to take the lead in providing financial and technical assistance to address food security, while developing countries were expected to provide an environment more conducive to investment.

31. The Summit had also provided an opportunity to emphasize successful national food security programmes through such measures as economic diversification, land reform strategies, tax incentives, subsidies to smallholder farmers and the provision of equipment and credit.

32. Trade had been the subject of significant debate, with many speakers stressing its indivisibility from food security. Developing countries had emphasized the need for increased access to markets and inputs, more transparent and non-discriminatory trade regulations and the elimination of trade-distorting subsidies. In that connection, several participants had called for a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round and also for a revision of the World Bank classification of economies.

33. While she commended the recent decision made by the Group of Eight (G-8) to mobilize $20 billion over three years for food security, those funds alone would be insufficient to tackle the problem. She was therefore pleased to inform the Council that the Islamic Development Bank had signed a $1 billion agreement with FAO in November 2009 to fund agricultural development in poor countries.

34. **Mr. Nabarro** (Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Food Security and Nutrition) said that the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis was a time-limited entity created under the authority of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in early 2008, at a time of extremely high world food prices, riots in at least 30 countries and widespread concern about increases in poverty and suffering around the world. Over 20 different United Nations entities were represented on the Task Force, which was chaired by the Secretary-General, with the head of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as the vice-chair. Through the Task Force, the Secretary-General had signalled that he, along with the heads of FAO, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and other organizations, were coming together to support the global response to the food crisis.

35. The Task Force had produced a single document, called the Comprehensive Framework for Action, whose goal had been to pull together all the activities

necessary to address both immediate and long-term aspects of the food security crisis. The document spelled out the need for a two-track approach, one to deal with the acute suffering caused by a lack of food, and the other to respond to the long-term challenges of the world's food systems related to trade and investment in agriculture. Using the Comprehensive Framework for Action, the Task Force had been working in a unified way.

36. The mobilization of emergency food assistance to respond to the immediate consequences of the food crisis had been the largest ever. Billions of dollars of assistance had been mobilized and made available to hundreds of millions of people who would otherwise have been in danger of malnutrition or even death. The issue of the world's 500 million smallholder farmers, who were mostly women, had been placed at the centre of food security action.

37. Many different political entities had become involved, expressing their conviction that food security must receive higher priority. The European Commission had committed to an assistance package of 1 billion euros. The African Union had stated at successive summits that Africa wanted a greater investment in food security. The Prime Minister of Spain had called a meeting of some of the principal food security actors to form a partnership on the issue.

38. International efforts had been focused on three areas. The first was the effort to revitalize the Committee on World Food Security to make it the inclusive intergovernmental body dealing with food security and to involve the private sector, research organizations and civil society to work together, along with the United Nations. The United Nations had created new forms of governance which reflected the plurality of actors involved in dealing with the complicated issue of food security.

39. The second strand involved the leadership of the Governments of Japan and Italy in getting the Group of Eight to take food security seriously. Italy had brought together 26 different nations to make a serious commitment to food security and a major pledge of resources. That had provided important new sources of pledges to be applied around the five principles which became central to the Rome Summit on Food Security. Foremost among them was the idea that food security plans should be led by countries, rather than from outside, and that the approach should be comprehensive, bringing together social protection, agriculture and trade, and should be based on the right to food. There had been subsequent meetings to ensure that the funds pledged would be properly tracked. A new funding pathway would be established by the World Bank to handle about 10 per cent of the funds pledged, with the rest of the funds moving through existing bilateral and multilateral channels, with strong country-level coordination.

40. The third strand of activity involved a truly African-led approach to agriculture and food security. African countries would produce their own plans, develop compacts with various donor groups, bring in the private sector and civil society and build up sustainable food security activities, with an increased investment in agriculture and food security as a percentage of national budgets. Sixteen countries were developing such compacts, and the first of the post-compact investment meetings had been held the previous week, led by President Kagame of Rwanda, for the purpose of developing an agriculture investment plan. Similar initiatives would probably come out of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other regional groupings.

41. Over the coming year, climate change would play an increasingly important role in food security activities, as there could be no food or water security without climate security. Efforts were being made so that the United Nations would work as one in support of national authorities. Responsible private sector activity which ensured reduction in hunger was an important goal. Progress reports were being produced on the activities of the agencies of the Task Force. Through events at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Bank, South-South and triangular cooperation would be highlighted.

42. **Mr. Hackett** (Barbados) said that the food crisis was of concern to all, in particular to countries in the developing world. For that reason, the information on the inter-agency effort was of great interest.

43. **Mr. Aguiar Patriota** (Brazil) said that the Task Force had made a major effort to move ahead with new types of principles and actions on food security involving the whole of the United Nations system, and further information on how Member States could be more involved in the Comprehensive Framework for Action and on a possible Member State interface would

be appreciated. Efficiency and results were important, but the issue of accountability by United Nations bodies to the Member States should not be overlooked.

44. The social consequences of food shortages were important, and trade, not aid, was an essential component of the long-term solution. Addressing distortions in global markets was a fundamental issue tied in with the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations. In the area of South-South cooperation, Brazil stood ready to share its knowledge of tropical plantation techniques with other developing countries, and looked forward to more United Nations support for such partnerships. The issue of biofuels must be studied more carefully before sweeping generalizations could be made about their impact on food security.

45. **Mr. Murakami** (Japan) said that eradication of hunger was an important component of the first Millennium Development Goal. In the lead-up to the high-level meeting to review progress towards the Goals, the Economic and Social Council could make a valuable contribution in reference to the collective efforts that had been made to fight hunger and promote agriculture and agriculture investment.

46. With the cooperation of FAO, UNCTAD and the World Bank, his delegation had organized an event on responsible international agriculture investment. He hoped that FAO would work towards the goal of establishing an international framework or guidelines on responsible international agricultural investment.

47. **Ms. Loza** (Observer for Nicaragua) said that the lack of discussion of biofuels in the document was quite striking, considering that statements had been made in other contexts on the negative role of biofuels in the food crisis. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food had spoken of a five-year moratorium on the production of biofuels, which had not been mentioned either. Trade and trade distortion also had an impact on the production and purchase of food and should be examined. According to FAO, enough food was being produced to feed twice the world's population. It was a question of access and of having the means to acquire food. She wondered why those issues had not been taken into account in the work programme.

48. **Mr. Nabarro** (Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Food Security and Nutrition) said that food security involved the availability of food in sufficient quantities and the ability to access it and use it. It was not simply an issue of producing more food; access and use were key to reducing hunger.

49. In its Zero Hunger Programme, the Government of Brazil had given priority to the right to food and had adopted policies that focused on the three dimensions of food security. The result had been a clearly documented fall in malnutrition levels. Social policies based on social justice had led to an extraordinary transformation. The High-level Task Force would be placing more emphasis on trade. However, it was important to keep in mind that trade discussions were negotiated by the member States of WTO in a very structured way. While other parts of the system could comment on relevant issues related to fair trade, the role of WTO as the forum for debates on such issues must be respected.

50. The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation had made progress in the application of science to food security. Its role in Africa through finding appropriate research and adapting and implementing it was a key example of South-South cooperation.

51. All member organizations of the High-level Task Force were accountable to Member States through their governing bodies. The Task Force and the Secretary-General were accountable to the General Assembly and to other parts of the United Nations. The forthcoming revision of the Comprehensive Framework for Action would come before the Committee on World Food Security for its comments.

52. The biofuels issue was of great concern. Various types of biofuels had different consequences, and it was important to distinguish between them. Further work was needed to address that, under the guidance of Member States.

53. Although the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, who reported to the Human Rights Council, was not a member of the High-level Task Force, it would take into account his points on trade and on biofuels. Japan's work on responsible agriculture investment would proceed in the context of the work of the Task Force. The suggestion of developing a code of conduct had been duly noted. The United States Secretary of State, the Secretary-General and other senior representatives of countries had met earlier in the year to discuss key principles for collective progress on food security.

54. **Ms. Ratsifandrihamanana** (Observer for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that the World Summit on Food Security had been the culmination of two years of effort, which had led to closer cooperation between FAO, IFAD and WFP. The organizations had pooled their expertise in agriculture, food security, natural resource management and financing for development. The Summit had been preceded by the Second Non-Aligned Movement First Ladies Summit, chaired by the First Lady of Egypt. That Summit had called on Governments to prioritize food security and on United Nations agencies to provide a capacity-building framework for women, including legal and institutional conditions for women's access to resources.

Follow-up to Council decision 2009/258 pertaining to paragraph 56 of the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development

55. **The President** recalled that, in its decision 2009/258 of 31 July 2009, the Council had requested the Secretariat to prepare, by 15 September 2009, three reports in follow-up to mandates contained in paragraph 56 of the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (A/RES/63/303). Those reports dealt with the following subjects: (i) the promotion and enhancement of a coordinated response of the United Nations development system and the specialized agencies in the follow-up to and implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/303; (ii) enhancing collaboration and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions; (iii) the possible establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development. The three reports had been presented to the Council on 30 September 2009 by Mr. Sundaram, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development.

56. In accordance with the aforementioned decision, she had convened, on 19 October, 26 October and 10 November 2009 respectively, open-ended informal consultations on each of the mandates covered by the reports. In addition, she had convened the current resumed substantive session of the Council in order to review progress made in the consideration of those issues.

57. The first informal consultations, convened on 19 October 2009, had dealt with the report of the Secretary-General entitled "The promotion and enhancement of a coordinated response of the United Nations development system and the specialized agencies in the follow-up to and implementation of the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development" (E/2009/114). The Council had heard briefings from the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, who had focused on the nine joint crisis initiatives formulated by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), and the Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau for Development Policy of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who had provided specific examples of UNDP crisis responses at the country level.

58. During the subsequent discussion, there had been some agreement on the importance of a coordinating role for the Council with respect to the United Nations development system's response to the crisis, given that the Council was the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, as well as for the implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals.

59. The need for up-to-date information had also been underlined, especially at the country level, including proper monitoring structures to enable the Council to play its role fully. Regular briefings of the Council on the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 63/303 would be useful in that regard, including broader briefings on the work of CEB such as the one given on 10 November 2009 by the Director of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

60. The annual report submitted by CEB to the Council's substantive session provided another opportunity to strengthen interaction between both bodies, thereby promoting and enhancing the coordinated response of the United Nations development system and the specialized agencies in the follow-up to and implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/303.

61. The Council could also build on the steps already taken by the United Nations development system through regular briefings held to explain how programme countries were responding to the crisis and how donor countries were assisting them in mitigating the effects of the crisis.

62. On 26 October 2009, she had convened the second informal consultations pursuant to the note by the Secretariat entitled "Enhancing collaboration and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions" (E/2009/115). The Council had heard briefings by the Special Representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to the United Nations and the Special Representative of the World Bank to the United Nations. Both speakers had noted that collaboration at the Secretariat and agency levels had increased through recent collaborative efforts, such as the CEB joint crisis initiative and the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. They had also emphasized that country-level cooperation benefited from well-coordinated United Nations agencies and the good will of the recipient country's local representatives and leadership. Furthermore, whereas Secretariat briefings by IMF and the World Bank could provide important information to Member States, they had stressed that more should be done to promote informal and formal discussions between the executive boards of the Bretton Woods institutions and United Nations Member States. In their view, the relationship agreement between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions provided sufficient scope for further collaboration.

63. While several Member States had agreed that the existing agreement provided enough space for enhanced collaboration, some delegations had referred to a deficit of coordination at the policy and operational levels, especially in the light of the current world economic and financial crisis. In that connection, they considered that the relationship agreement between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions should be revised.

64. In view of the mandate entrusted to the Council by the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, she wished to reiterate the call made to Member States on 26 October 2009 to explore concrete ways for improved collaboration at the intergovernmental, operational and Secretariat levels. Proposals raised in that regard could be furthe explored in the following weeks and months.

65. At the intergovernmental level, coordinatio between Member States' policies in New York an Washington could be enhanced. The Council coul promote informal and formal discussions between th executive boards of the Bretton Woods institutions an United Nations Member States. The recommendation adopted by the Council and endorsed by the Genera Assembly for a strengthened financing fo development follow-up process, including for th forthcoming High-level Dialogue on Financing fo Development, provided important opportunities t build further momentum.

66. At the operational level, Member States should b more regularly informed about ongoing areas o cooperation between the United Nations and th Bretton Woods institutions. Specific examples of inte agency cooperation at the Secretariat and countr levels could be shared more widely given tha advanced forms of collaboration often existe although they remained widely unknown. Th Council's operational activities segment also provide an opportunity to discuss those issues further and mor widely, and to examine what concrete actions had bee taken to implement the 2007 triennial comprehensiv policy review.

67. At the Secretariat level, cooperation between th United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions wa largely implemented through the CEB repor considered during the Council's substantive session However, cooperation had increased as a result o recent collaborative efforts and should be furthe encouraged. The issue of joint publications by th United Nations and the Bretton Woods institution could also be further explored.

68. Overall, a better understanding of the variou issues discussed within the United Nations and at th Bretton Woods institutions, and of the sensitivitie attached to them, could contribute to advancing thei respective mandates.

69. On 10 November 2009, she had convened th Council's third informal consultations pertaining to it request to consider and make recommendations to th General Assembly regarding the possible establishmen of an ad hoc panel of experts on the world economi and financial crisis and its impact on development. Th Council had been seized of the note by the Secretariat

entitled "Possible establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development: past terms of reference and any relevant factors or experience of previous ad hoc panels of experts" (E/2009/113), and had heard briefings by three expert panellists.

70. On that occasion, Professor Stiglitz had shared his experience as Chairman of the Commission of Experts of the President of the General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System, and had spoken about the rationale behind the suggestion to establish an ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis. As topical areas for such an expert panel, he had cited improved global governance, sovereign debt problems, the possibility of a new global reserve system and more effective financial market surveillance with a view to lowering unemployment.

71. The Director of the Division for Sustainable Development had focused on the workings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), on which he had served as a coordinating lead author. He had ascribed the success of IPCC to its perseverance, its link to political processes, its ability to accommodate a broad range of scientific views and the overall urgency of the issue of climate change.

72. The Director of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination had shared lessons learned during his tenure as Executive Director of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence. In his view, factors contributing to a meaningful and effective output had been the high-level membership of the Panel and the quick implementation of a large number of country-level consultations with a wide range of stakeholders.

73. The presentations had been followed by a lively exchange of views. While a consensus had yet to emerge, particularly since major groups of Member States had reserved their positions, the discussion had helped to define certain parameters or criteria for the Council to consider when making its recommendations on the possible establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts. The need to ensure relevance and added value had been stressed as well as the need for complementarity to other processes. Mention had also been made of the need for a selection process, where appropriate, to ensure a high-level of expertise, a wide spectrum of views and a broad range of regional representation among different stakeholders.

74. In view of the correlation between the potential relevance of an ad hoc panel of experts and the need for its swift establishment, the discussions on those and other aspects should be actively pursued in the following weeks to allow the Council to propose concrete recommendations to the General Assembly.

75. With regard to paragraph 56 (b) of General Assembly resolution 63/303, she recalled that the General Assembly had recently endorsed the recommendations submitted by the Council for a strengthened and more effective and inclusive intergovernmental process to carry out the financing for development follow-up. The challenge ahead was to ensure the full and effective implementation of those recommendations so that the financing for development follow-up process received the attention that it deserved.

76. The request originating in paragraph 16 of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development (A/RES/63/239) and recalled in paragraph 56 (c) of General Assembly resolution 63/303 to "examine the strengthening of institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters, including the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters", had been briefly addressed towards the end of the Council's 2009 substantive session. However, that issue could not be concluded in a substantive manner since it had not been formally addressed by the Committee of Experts during its fifth session, held from 19 to 23 October 2009 in Geneva. Owing to the heavy agenda of the Second Committee and other ongoing negotiations in previous weeks, no further progress had been made on that issue. Discussions would therefore need to be pursued.

77. In paragraph 57 of General Assembly resolution 63/303, she recalled that the Secretary-General had been requested to report to the Council on a regular basis on the work of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. In that connection, the Coordinator of the Task Force appointed by the Secretary-General had briefed the Council on behalf of the Secretary-General at the current meeting.

78. In paragraph 58 of the aforementioned resolution, she recalled that the International Labour Organization (ILO) had been invited to present the "Global Jobs

Pact", adopted at the ninety-eighth session of the International Labour Conference, to the Council's substantive session in July 2009. In that connection, the Director-General of ILO had given a presentation on the Pact on the opening day of the Council's substantive session. Furthermore, through its resolution 2009/5 dated 24 July 2009, the Council had welcomed the adoption of the "Global Jobs Pact" and had encouraged Member States to promote and make full use of it.

79. Lastly, in paragraph 59 of the resolution, she recalled that the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) had been encouraged to continue to contribute to the development of global responses to the crisis. In that regard, she highlighted her participation in a parliamentary hearing on that theme, organized jointly by IPU and the United Nations on 19 November 2009, during which she had reported on the Council's activities aimed at ensuring a coordinated response to the crisis.

80. **Mr. Fries** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, **Ms. Osman** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, **Mr. Aguiar Patriota** (Brazil), **Mr. Rosenthal** (Guatemala), **Mr. Murakami** (Japan), **Mr. González Segura** (Observer for Mexico), **Mr. Steeghs** (Netherlands), **Mr. Barton** (United States of America) and **Mr. Ovalles-Santos** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) paid tribute to the outgoing President for her excellent leadership.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.